

NEWS SUMMARY.

City Affairs.—The annual meeting of the Sixth Army Corps Legion was held last evening in the hall of the Fire Association, Fifth and North streets.

The Aldermanic fines paid into the City Treasury during the present month, for the one preceding, are as follows:—Lewis Gidson, \$38; W. S. Toland, \$44.75; William Nell, \$84; C. S. Pancoast, \$48; Thomas Dallas, \$29; A. T. Eggleston, \$60; J. P. Thompson, \$29; Charles M. Carpenter, \$29; Andrew Morrow, \$30; J. J. Massey, \$37; Francis Hood, \$35; and W. R. Heine, \$30.

Samuel Goff has been committed by Coroner Taylor for causing the death of Carrie Oldfield, on Saturday last, in Frankford, by the explosion of burning fluid with which he was experimenting.

The Baptist Ministerial Conference met yesterday in the church, Eighth street, above Green.

Domestic Affairs.—Gold closed yesterday at 123 1/2.

A national convention of colored men is in session in Washington.

The trains to Washington were delayed yesterday by the snow storm.

The internal revenue receipts were yesterday a quarter of a million dollars.

It is denied that the Hudson Bay Company is implicated in the Red river insurrection.

Representative Van Wyck's motion to be heard by the House Election Committee on Friday next.

The House Reconstruction Committee will meet on Thursday to consider the admission of Virginia.

The case of Covode against Foster, in the Twenty-first Pennsylvania district, will come up on Tuesday next for a vote.

Parties holding the Mexican bonds assert that but for their assistance Juarez would have had no help outside of Mexico. It is thought the Mexican Commission will meet for some important State secrets of that country.

The following were the proceedings in Congress yesterday after the close of our report:—

In the House.—Bills were introduced by Mr. Williams, of Ind., repealing the duty on coffee, tea, salt, and printing paper; Mr. Finkelnburg, of Mo., relating to naturalization; Mr. Wood, of N. Y., to prevent Congressmen from holding office under the President; and by Mr. Ingersoll, of Ill., to prohibit Treasury agents of coin, and provide for redemption of silver backs in coin, at par. The credentials of Messrs. Hays, Sherrer, Helms and Dix, of Alabama, were reported back from the Election Committee, and those gentlemen were sworn in. The credentials of the Virginia members were presented and referred. A bill to extend the patent for Hoe's printing press was reported and tabled. On motion of Mr. Butler, the Postmaster General was directed to report upon the practicability of paying pensions through the postal money order system.

Foreign Affairs.—The French Ministry resigned yesterday.

Very rich gold discoveries have been made in Nicaragua.

The Viceroy of Egypt is making extensive preparations to increase the cotton crop in that country.

An animated debate occurred in the French Corps Legislatif on the subject of the coup d'etat of 1851.

The French Envoy in Anam, Asia, asks that from the authorities the cession of the districts occupied by the French in that section.

Austria wants the consent of the European powers to cross Turkish territory for the purpose of quelling the Dalmatian insurrection.

A concession has been obtained from the Czar for laying a telegraph cable from some point on the coast of Asiatic Russia to China and Japan.

FIRE.—The destruction of the Commercial Exchange Building—The Loss of a Mystery.

At a few minutes before 5 o'clock last evening there was a cry of fire on Second street, above Walnut, and it required but a few seconds to discover its whereabouts. But a few minutes more elapsed when there was a crash of tin, followed by the bursting of a flame from the top of the handsome building owned by the Commercial Exchange Association. By this time the alarm had been given over the Police and Fire Alarm Telegraph wires, and shortly the apparatus of the First, Second, and Third fire districts were on the ground. All efforts were made to stay the flames, but from the rapid progress which they made the attempt proved fruitless, and in less than two hours nothing of the structure was left save the bare walls and that portion not occupied by the Traders' National Bank. Numbers of citizens were on the ground early, eager to render assistance in removing the contents, but communication having been cut off with the upper floors, none were got out.

There was a rumor on the street, for which we could not ascertain any foundation, that when the fire broke out several persons were in the main room of the Association, who were taken from the building by means of ladders.

As to the origin of the fire several theories have been advanced, but it is, as yet, involved in mystery. One rumor was that it resulted from the falling of a chandelier in the main room, but that was dispelled by the statement of the janitor that there was no such article in that apartment.

Another rumor was that it resulted from defective flues, but as the structure was heated by steam that is not plausible. Another was that it came from an escape of gas, and the final rumor was that the fire was the work of an incendiary.

It seems to rest between the two latter theories, which may be solved by Fire Marshal Blackburn when he again appears on active duty. William S. Pine, the janitor, states there were no people in the upper part of the structure except two boys, who, as usual, were posted at the head of the staircase on either side of the main entrance, observing that none but those having the keys passed up. He, himself, was in the cellar fixing the boilers for the night, and was notified to get out of the place as the building was on fire. He ascended to the first floor, and going into the rotunda, looked up into the tower, the upper part of which was all in a blaze. He then turned off the gas, and endeavored to go up the stairway, but was compelled to return, as the flames were rapidly descending the tower. He believes the conflagration to have been the work of an incendiary, stating that no gas was used in the upper part of the tower, as the rooms were not occupied. As to the crash of glass, which gave rise to the report that an explosion had taken place, he believes that was occasioned by the intense heat which must necessarily have ensued. This glass formed the skylight in the roof.

The building comprised, in addition to the main room, which was used for meetings of the Association, a room for the display of samples, some twenty odd offices, a reception room, and three committee rooms, the latter being in the tower. On the first floor there were twenty offices, which were ranged on either side of the main entrance. The rest of the building was as follows: On the north side, the Lewis and Anderson & Co., coal merchants; The Vessel Owners' and Captains' Association; Pierce & Neysart, Malcolm, Lloyd, Waring, King & Co., Tack Brothers and A. B. Gray, petroleum brokers; C. H. Grant, dealer in taltry; officers of the Pacific and Atlantic Bankers and Brokers; and Western Union Telegraph Companies; and the reception room of the Commercial Exchange. On the south side were the Traders' National Bank, the offices of the Cotton and Woolen Brokers' Association, R. Callaway, E. A. Howard & Co., H. L. Foster, Charles Whitford, William P. Logan & Bro., and Warden, Frew & Co., petroleum brokers; the Atlantic Petroleum Storage Company, and S. L. Ward, Secretary and Treasurer of the Commercial Exchange.

The Traders' National Bank apartment was fireproof, and what damage was sustained was from water. Nothing was allowed to be taken from this room except some valuable paintings which would in all probability have been blistered by the heat. The furniture cost the bank some \$15,000, on which there was no insurance. All the important books and papers were secured in the vault, and have sustained no injury. There was a safe in the room of Secretary Ward, which contains the books and papers of the association, the condition of which remains to be proved.

The second story consisted of one immense room which was devoted to the use of the Association. It contained thirty large marble-top tables, on which the members displayed their samples. Nothing was taken from this room, as it was impossible to reach it. The three rooms in the tower, as before said, were not occupied.

Foreign Items.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Cologne Gazette says that "the ill-will with which England is regarded in Russia is slowly but steadily increasing," and that an impression is spreading in the Russian capital "that the complications in Central Asia must lead to a violent collision with the ruler of India."

The correspondent observes that this paper speaks with the greatest enthusiasm of the approaching opening of the Suez Canal, which, it thinks, will make Russia the arbiter between Europe and the East, and that the real reason of the coldness recently shown by the Russian organs towards Prussia is the belief that English and Prussian interests are identical.

Another article in the Moscow Gazette, dated the 25th of October (6th November), says that Russian commerce with Central Asia is acquiring a great development, especially in the direction of Kashgar, which promises to furnish a more considerable field for Russian traders than the Indian, but that the Russians themselves balked at every step by the competition of English goods. "A caravan of 6500 camels, laden with tea and European merchandise, lately arrived from India by a new route, via Afghanistan," says the Moscow Gazette, and the best way of opposing the spread of British commerce in these regions is to open new roads to Russian commerce. It accordingly recommends the establishment of a fort and harbor on the Amou-Darya and the commencement of operations against Khiva with a view to "preventing the country from becoming in future a place of refuge for Russia's enemies, whence they may direct attacks on her frontier."

The revival of M. Alexandre Dumas' drama, Le Chevalier de Maison Rouge, at the Porte Saint-Martin Theatre, has stirred up an old question, which had already been asked in 1848, as to why the author did not allow his hero to retain the name under which he actually flourished in history—that is, Rougelle, not Maison-Rouge. To this inquiry M. Alexandre Dumas has just replied by giving a very extraordinary story in the columns of the *Moniteur du Soir*. Writing to that paper, M. Dumas says that the four-volume novel from which his drama is drawn had been originally announced to appear under the title of "Chevalier de Rougelle," but that a day or two after the publisher's advertisement was printed he (M. Dumas) received a letter from the Marquis de Rougelle, son of the Chevalier, asking him to withdraw the name of a part of his father's name in the book. M. Dumas answered very courteously that, as he greatly admired the heroic devotion of the chevalier, he had painted him in glowing colors, but that to avoid in any way hurting the susceptibilities of the marquis, he would relinch his work, and call it *Maison Rouge*. So far so good; but at this point the story takes an unexpected turn, for, after an interval of a week or two, M. Alexandre Dumas receives another letter from the marquis, couched in the following terms:—"Sir, give up your novel with title you please. I am the last of my name, and I am going to blow out my brains this evening." This unsatisfactory epistle was delivered to M. Dumas at 6 P. M. Without a moment's delay he started off by secretary to the marquis's lodgings in hopes of being able to stop the suicide; but it was too late. The marquis, who, like his sire, seems to have been of an unfortunately romantic turn of mind, had fallen madly in love with a Russian lady, who had some excuse for declining his advances, seeing that he was already a married man. Driven to despair, the excitable nobleman had given the lady a last rendezvous at his house, and the moment she crossed his threshold had shot himself in the head. M. Dumas' secretary had just arrived that he had not killed himself on the spot, but was lying dangerously wounded. A few days later, however, when he went to pay a second visit, he found that the marquis had torn off his bandages in a paroxysm and was dead.

"Thus," says M. Dumas in conclusion, "you will see that it is not from ignorance, but from discretion, that I call my drama *Maison Rouge*."

Fall of Buildings in Brooklyn.—The residents of Brooklyn Heights were suddenly aroused about 11 o'clock last evening by a rumbling as of thunder, quickly followed by a tremendous crash, which appeared to come from towards the river front, and which proved to be the fall of two four-story brick buildings on Furman street, foot of Cranberry street. They were the centre buildings of four which were in course of completion. The work was done in the way, and they fell forward into Furman street, a complete wreck.

MARINE TELEGRAPH.—For additional Marine News see First Page.

ALMANAC FOR PHILADELPHIA—THIS DAY.

SUN RISES.....7:12 MOON SETS.....5:59  
SUN SETS.....4:51 MOON RISES.....12:29

PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF TRADE.

JAMES DOUGHERTY, Chairman of the Month.  
JOSEPH C. GREEN, Chairman of Arbitrations.

J. O. James, George L. Bush, E. A. Souder, William W. Paul, Thos. L. Gillespie.

MOVEMENTS OF OCEAN STEAMSHIPS.

FOR AMERICA.

Atlanta, London, New York, Nov. 20  
Savannah, New York, Nov. 21  
Virginia, Liverpool, New York, Nov. 24  
Savannah, Liverpool, New York, Nov. 24  
India, Glasgow, New York, Nov. 26  
Nemesis, Liverpool, New York, Nov. 27  
Albatross, Liverpool, New York, Nov. 27  
Cuba, Liverpool, New York, Nov. 27  
Riberia, Liverpool, New York, Nov. 27  
Deutschland, Liverpool, New York, Nov. 27  
Colorado, Liverpool, New York, Dec. 1  
Etna, Liverpool, New York, Dec. 1

FOR EUROPE.

Scythia, Liverpool, Dec. 8  
Savannah, Liverpool, Dec. 8  
Wester, Liverpool, Bremen, Dec. 9  
Samarra, Liverpool, Bremen, Dec. 9  
City of Paris, Liverpool, Dec. 11  
Europa, Liverpool, Glasgow, Dec. 11  
Bremen, Liverpool, Bremen, Dec. 11  
Denmark, Liverpool, Bremen, Dec. 11  
Savannah, Liverpool, Bremen, Dec. 11  
Atlanta, Liverpool, Bremen, Dec. 11  
C. of Brooklyn, New York, Liverpool, Dec. 15  
G. of Washington, New York, Liverpool, Dec. 15  
Etna, Liverpool, New York, Dec. 23

Prometheus, Philadelphia, Charleston, Dec. 9  
Eagle, New York, Havana, Dec. 9  
Plover, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Dec. 11  
Wilmington, Philadelphia, Savannah, Dec. 11  
The West, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Dec. 11  
De Soto, New York, Havana, Dec. 11  
Mails are forwarded by every steamer in the regular line. The steamer of the Liverpool and London Steamship Co. call at Southampton. The steamer of the Canadian line, which call at London, call at Southampton.

CLEARED YESTERDAY.

Steamer H. L. Gray, Her. Baltimore, A. Groves, Jr., by Lieut. Barker, St. John, S. B. G. V. Van Horn, Sch. Morris de Ajuria (new), McBride, Sagu, Isaac Hugh & Morris.

ARRIVED YESTERDAY.

Steamship Whitford, Sherman, 26 hours from Providence, with mail, to D. S. Roston & Co.  
By Express, Edin. Moore, Masters, 49 days from London, with mail, to E. G. & G. L. Lennie.  
By Brig, G. E. T. Trask, 10 days from Galois, with laths to W. L. Leavitt, vessel to London.  
By Brig, Isabella Bourne, Kennard, 10 days from Bangor, with laths to J. W. Gaskill & Sons—vessel to London & New York.  
By Brig, Cosmo, Parsons, 5 days from Boston.  
By Brig, Calvin, Vapost, from St. John, N. B., via St. Andrews, 5 days, with laths to T. P. Galtier & Co. Enclosed some of the deck plates.  
By Brig, W. L. Leavitt, vessel to London, having broken the ice and some of the deck plates.  
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THE FIRM OF MORRIS, TASKER & CO.

is this day dissolved by mutual consent, HENRY G. MORRIS retiring from the business.

STEPHEN MORRIS, THOMAS T. TASKER, JR., & HENRY G. MORRIS, HENRY G. MORRIS.

We, the undersigned, have this day formed a Partnership to carry on the business of the PASCAL IRON WORKS, under the name and style of MORRIS, TASKER & CO.

STEPHEN MORRIS, THOMAS T. TASKER, JR., HENRY G. MORRIS.

127 1/2

DRY GOODS. GREAT CRASH IN DRY GOODS. EVERYTHING DOWN—HIGH PRICES OVER FOR THE SEASON. GRAND CLOSING SALE OF RICKEY, SHARP & CO.'S IMMENSE STOCK OF DRY GOODS At Retail. Unprecedented Bargains IN SILKS, VELVETS, DRESS GOODS, and MISCELLANEOUS DRY GOODS. THIS STOCK IS THE MOST EXTENSIVE AND VALUED EVER OFFERED AT RETAIL IN THIS CITY, AND CONTAINS MORE NOVELTIES AND STAPLES OF IMPORTATION THAN CAN BE FOUND ELSEWHERE. ONE PRICE AND NO DEVIATION. RICKEY, SHARP & CO., No. 727 CHESNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA. Christmas Presents OF INTRINSIC VALUE, EYRE & LANDELL, FOURTH AND ARCH STREETS, Have reduced some FINE LONG SHAWLS, CAMEL'S HAIR SCARFS, NOBILITY VELVETS, NOBILITY BLACK SILKS, RICH ROBE DE CHAM, FINE ROYAL POPLINS, FASHIONABLE PULSHES, BEST BLACK ASTRACHANS, WHITE SMOOTH DO, FANCY SACKINGS. N. B.—Handkerchiefs, in Fancy Boxes; Point Lace Collars, Scarfs, Gloves, Roman Sashes, Fancy Ties, etc. etc. 10 1/2 mwt

MEMORANDA.

Ship Progress, Steamer for Philadelphia, put into Baltimore 23d ult.

Ship Cleaveland, for Philadelphia, entered on at Liverpool 22d ult.

Ship Record, Colfer, hence, at Antwerp 22d ult.

Ship Cleaveland, Colfer, for Philadelphia, sailed from Liverpool 22d ult.

Ship Cleaveland, Cleaveland, Bradford, for Philadelphia, cleared at Liverpool 22d ult.

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DRY GOODS. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT. Sheppard, Van Harlingen & Arrison, No. 1008 CHESNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA. Respectfully announce to their friends and the public generally, that for THIRTY DAYS they will offer their ENTIRE STOCK OF CHOICE AND FINE GOODS at such a reduction as will insure a QUICK SALE. SPECIAL ATTENTION is invited to the following lines of goods, among which are one NEW IMPORTATION, MANY NOVELTIES, and some of the finest qualities made, being expressly imported for the HOLIDAYS. DOUBLE DAMASK TABLE CLOTHS, IN ALL SIZES. DOUBLE DAMASK TABLE NAPKINS, IN ALL SIZES. DOUBLE DAMASK TABLE LINENS, TOWELS AND TOWELLINGS. PARIS TAPESTRY PIANO AND TABLE COVERS. RICH EMBROIDERED PIANO AND TABLE COVERS. RICH AND ELEGANT LACE CURTAINS. RICH SATIN CERTAIN MATERIALS. BRIDAL MARSEILLES QUILTS. EXPOSITION DO. DO. FINE HEMSTITCHED HANDKERCHIEFS. Together with a large and general stock of WHITE GOODS, LINEN GOODS, HOUSEKEEPING DRY GOODS, BLANKETS, FLANNELS, DOMESTIC MUSLINS, ETC. ETC. ETC. 12 1/2 mwt

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